



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/657,203	09/09/2003	Kazuhiro Matsushita	242366US3	9112
22850	7590	05/10/2004	EXAMINER	
OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			BOCHNA, DAVID	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		3679		

DATE MAILED: 05/10/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/657,203	MATSUSHITA, KAZUHIRO
Examiner	Art Unit	
David E. Bochna	3679	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-4, 6 and 7 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 5 and 8-14 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-4 and 6-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Le Quere.

In regard to claim 1, Le Quere discloses a pipe joint comprising: a cylindrical joint body 21 having a first end on one side in an axial direction and a second end on the other side in the axial direction to be inserted into a joint mounting hole 105 of a fluid pressure apparatus from a side of the first end; a tube connecting hole open on a side of the second end of the joint body; chuck member 11 provided the joint body to be locked to a piping tube inserted into the tube connecting hole; sealing member 25 for sealing a periphery of the tube; a release member 13 for releasing locking of the chuck member to the tube; and a pull-out preventing ring 3 provided to an outer periphery (surface 1 of 3 is about and flush with the outer periphery of 21) of the joint body 21 to prevent the joint body 21 from being pulled out of the joint mounting hole,

wherein the pull-out preventing ring 3 is formed separately from the joint body 21, elastically deformable in a radial direction, and has on its outer peripheral face one or more annular edge 7 be locked to wall 107 of the joint mounting hole.

In regard to claim 2, wherein the annular edges 7 end portion the axial direction of the pull-out preventing ring with its (their) nose(s) directed toward the second end of the joint body.

In regard to claim 3, the pull-out preventing ring 3 has two annular edges 7 in positions adjacent to each other in an axial direction.

In regard to claim 4, a space portion (space between to adjacent ridge points of 7) for housing a chip which has flaked away from the hole wall of the joint mounting hole is provided between the two annular edges.

In regard to claim 6, wherein an angle of a section of the annular edge is 90 or smaller.

In regard to claim 7, the pull-out preventing ring 3 has two annular edges 7 close to an axial direction base edge portion, and the annular edge(s) is (are) formed with its (their) nose(s) directed toward the second end of the joint body, having a space portion for housing a chip which has flaked away from the hole wall of the joint mounting hole provided between the two annular edges.

3. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Moretti.

In regard to claim 1, Moretti discloses a pipe joint comprising: a cylindrical joint body 9 having a first end on one side in an axial direction and a second end on the other side in the axial direction to be inserted into a joint mounting hole of a fluid pressure apparatus from a side of the first end; a tube connecting hole open on a side of the second end of the joint body; chuck member 16 provided the joint body to be locked to a piping tube inserted into the tube connecting hole; sealing member 7 for sealing a periphery of the tube; a release member 22 for releasing locking of the chuck member to the tube; and a pull-out preventing ring 17 provided to an outer periphery of the joint body (portion 29 of 17 is to the outer periphery of 11) to prevent the joint body from being pulled out of the joint mounting hole,

wherein the pull-out preventing ring 17 is formed separately from the joint body 9, elastically deformable in a radial direction, and has on its outer peripheral face one or more annular edge 29 be locked to the wall of the joint mounting hole.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 5 and 8-14 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

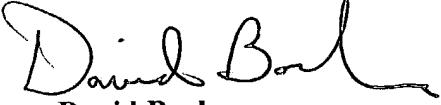
Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Salomon-Bahls, Nakazumi et al., Olson et al., Cambot-Courrau, Taneya, Olson et al., Hoff et al., Rubichon, Takagi, Hosono et al. and Kowal et al. all disclose similar couplings common in the art.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David Bochna whose telephone number is (703) 306-9040. The examiner can normally be reached on 8-5:30 Monday-Thursday and every other Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P. Stodola can be reached on (703) 308-2686. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-2168.


David Bochna
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3679
April 30, 2004